

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

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AMCONSUL ST JOHNS

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: OCLR TBIO TPHY CA US

SUBJECT:RESEARCH CRUISE R/V WESTWARD

1. R/V WESTWARD DESIRES CLEARANCE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH CANADIAN TERRITORIAL WATERS OFF COASTS NOVA SCOTIA AND NEWFOUNDLAND FOR PERIOD JULY 29 THRU SEPT 9. PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS ARE WILLIAM T. LEAPLEY AND CLOEMAN LEVENSON BOTH OF NAVAL OCEANOGRAPHIC OFFICE. PURPOSE OF CRUISE IS: 1) DETERMINE ACOUSTIC CHARACTERISTICS, BOTH AS SOUND SOURCE AND TARGET, OF TOOTHED AND BALEEN WHALES; AND 2) ACQUIRE DISTRIBUTION DATA ON WHALES TO PROVIDE BASIS FOR PREDICTING POPULATION DENSITIES AND SPECIES OCCURRENCE. CRUISE TRCAK WILL TAKE R/V WESTWARD FROM WOODS HOLE NORTH AND EAST ALONG NOVA SCOTIAN COAST, THROUGH CABOT STRAIT AND INTO GULF OF ST LAWRENCE, THROUGH STRAIT OF BELLE ISLE, TURNING SOUTH ALONG NEWFOUNDLAND COAST FOR RETURN TO WOODS HOLE. ITINERARY INCLUDES BREIF CALLS HALIFAX AND ST JOHN'S. SCHEDULE FOLLOWS:

WOODS HOLE, MASS JULY 29

HALIFAX, N.S. AUGUST 3

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ST. JOHN'S, NFLD AUGUST 20

WOODS HOLE SEPT 9

2. VESSEL CHARACTERISTICS: 99 FT, 200 TON AUXILIARY

POWERED, STAYSAIL SCHOONER. MASTER IS F.M. HEDRICK WITH CREW OF 10, SCIENTIFIC PARTY OF 3 AND 16 STUDENTS. R/V WESTWARD IS US FLAG VESSEL PRIVATELY OWNED AND OPERATED BY SAILING EDUCATION ASSOCIATION OF BOSTON, A NON PROFIT INSTITUTION. STUDENTS, WHO PAY FOR SPACE ABOARD, ARE INSTRUCTED ON BASIC SAILING AND SEAMANSHIP, AND WORK WITH SCIENTISTS TO GET EXPOSURE TO VARIOUS ASPECTS OCEANOGRAPHIC SCIENCE.

3. WORK TO BE AVAILABLE TO GOC, AND ONE BERTH AVAILABLE FOR SCIENTIST/OBSERVER. RESEARCHERS TO EMPLOY SONOBUOYS AND HYDROPHONES FOR RECORDING WHALES, AND TRANSDUCER TO BE EMPLOYED AS SOUND SOURCE TO ILLUMINATE WHALES AS TARGETS. FYI MINIATURE EXPLOSIVE CHARGES WERE TO HAVE BEEN USED FOR THIS PURPOSE, BUT HAVE BEEN RULED OUT DUE TO CONSIDERATION US MARINE MAMMAL ACT. NO EXPLOSIVES TO BE CARRIED ABOARD END FYI.

4. ACTION: EXACT VESSEL TRACK IMPOSSIBLE TO PREDICT AS IT WILL BE BASED ON ACTUAL SIGHTINGS AND MIGRATION CHARACTERISTICS OF WHALES. ACCORDINGLY POST REQUESTED TO SEEK GOC CLEARANCE FOR RESEARCH WITHIN TERRITORIAL WATERS. KISSINGER

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